

Hausam, Tom
Page 1 of 2

----- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/15/2003 02:14 PM -----
thaus01@aol.com
10/09/2003 06:47 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 | I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 | TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover
Route" would carve through some of the most remote and
wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the
beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori
Highlands. This area contains several roadless areas as well as
a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home to black bears,
Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine
falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora
chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry
indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two
years ago.

PLEASE SAVE THIS ENVIRONMENT SO THAT OUR
CHILDREN MAY EXPERIENCE ITS DIVERSITY.

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to biodiversity and wildlife.

Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Hausam, Tom
Page 2 of 2

3 The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

4 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

5 The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Tom Hausam
215 Grape St
Denver, Colorado 80220

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Hebeisen, Brian
Page 1 of 1

----- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 05:22 PM -----
peru_boy@hotmail.com
10/10/2003 04:53 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement on Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 | The draft Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline is highly
inappropriate. Please resubmit with major changes. This
plan as currently written is massively oversized and would
destroy large natural areas and harm many endangered
species that already have too little protection. Please stand
up for the environment and not for the big business interests
that are destroying it.

Sincerely,

Brian Hebeisen
170 Worcester St.
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

Comment No. 1

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to undisturbed natural areas.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to threatened and other special status species.

Heisey, Adriel
Page 1 of 1

---- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 06:04 PM -----
adrielh@earthlink.net 10/15/2003 12:07 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 | As a resident of Pima County, I am writing to express my
2 | opposition to the proposed power line to Nogales.
I believe that this is an unnecessary defacement of an
important historic corridor. The scenic, cultural, and
economic values of leaving this landscape intact far
outweigh any benefits of the power line. The time for these
landscape-scarring projects is past. We must find other ways
to meet the needs the power line is intended to fulfill.

Thank you for your consideration of my perspective on this
important issue.

Sincerely,

Adriel Heisey
1720 W. Placita Salton
Tucson, Arizona 85737

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.4 and 4.4 describe existing cultural resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Likewise, Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources.

Sections 3.5 and 4.5 discuss the existing socioeconomic resources and address potential socioeconomic impacts as a result of the proposed project. Section 3.5 has been revised in the Final EIS to describe existing socioeconomic aspects of tourism in the project area, and Section 4.5 has been revised to discuss potential impacts to socioeconomic aspects of tourism. Section 4.5 includes a discussion of the reasons that potential impacts to property values as a result of the proposed project are speculative and beyond the scope of the EIS. A cost-benefit analysis is beyond the scope of the EIS.

Comment No. 2

The ACC is vested with the state's authority to decide how it believes energy should be furnished within Arizona's borders (for example, the need for and effectiveness of transmission lines within its borders). Refer to the revised text in Section 1.1.2, The Origin of TEP's Proposal: TEP's Business Plan and the Proceedings of the Arizona Corporation Committee, that provides explanation of the jurisdictions and authorities of the state and Federal agencies, and their relationship to this NEPA analysis.

Herbert, Floyd
Page 1 of 1

proposed Sahuarita-to-Nogales power line

From: Maggie Gilman [SMTP:maggieg@dakotacom.net]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc: herbert@vega.lpl.arizona.edu

Subject: proposed Sahuarita-to-Nogales power line
Sent: 10/11/2003 12:02 PM
Importance: Normal

Dear sirs:

1 I am writing concerning the proposed TEP power line between Sahuarita and Nogales. Generally the power grid lacks redundancy, leading to an increasing frequency of blackouts (which have already begun to happen in Nogales, at the terminus of the present lines), and the solution to this problem is to add transmission capacity. Generally, I believe that National Forest land is the ideal location for power lines because that minimizes social and individual impacts, and thus benefits the most people. The few who oppose this option mostly cite frivolous personal ideological reasons, and should not be allowed to prevail. Indeed, this ideology of opposition to all improvements of the nation's energy infrastructure is functionally analogous to an auto-immune disease, where the body's immune system mistakenly attempts to destroy its own body. These folks are trying, whether they realize it or not, to make life tough for all of us. In summary, I respectfully request that the DOE take responsibility for necessary infrastructure upgrades and approve the proposed power line.

Sincerely,
Floyd Herbert
email: herbert@vega.LPL.arizona.edu

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's support for the proposed project, stating that additional transmission capacity is needed and that National Forest land is the ideal location for transmission lines.

Hicks, Gerry
Page 1 of 1

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

From: Geny Hicks [SMTP:hicksg@mindspring.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:
Subject: power lines
Sent: 8/30/2003 8:09 PM **Importance:** Normal

Dr. Pell:

When will TEP realize that what it does impacts everyone of us living in the Southwest? The Sonoran desert is too precious a gift to turn over to the utility company.

I could go on and on with statistics and rationale and measured argument, but experts and residents have already done it all. Installing these power lines is not a good thing at all. Period.

My mind screams out "No. No. A thousand times NO!!"

Gerry Hicks
Tucson, AZ

Hinman, Gary
Page 1 of 1

From: GARY HINMAN [ghman51@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2003 2:03 PM
To: Pell, Jerry
Subject: proposed power lines

1 | I do not support them.
Gary Hinman

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the proposed project.

Horowitz, Beth
Page 1 of 2

BETH M. HOROWITZ

E-Mail: **P.O.B. 6013** **520-297-8572**
BEWITZED@JUNO.COM **Tucson, AZ 85703-6013** Fax available upon request

ATTN: Dr. Jerry Pell,
Office of Fossil Energy,
US Department of Energy,
Washington, D.C. 20585

And,

ATTN: Sue Kozacek, Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress,
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Pell and Ms. Kozacek:

I am writing to object the to the released Tucson Electric Power's (TEP) proposal to build a 140-foot tall power line through one of Arizona's most spectacular landscapes. TEP's preferred route would run 30 miles through the heart of the Tumacacori, Atascosa, and Pajarito Mountains. Referred to as the Tumacacori Highlands, this assemblage of mountains contains the largest unprotected roadless area in southern Arizona. The power line—a towering series of 12 transmission wires and over 400 support structures—would continue into Mexico to a proposed power plant at Santa Ana, Sonora. Energy would then be bought and sold between the United States and Mexico, with a small amount of power reserved as back-up electricity for Santa Cruz County. Impacts include:

- The power line would slice through the middle of a proposed Wilderness Area identified by volunteers and citizens since 1998.
- 20 miles of new roads would be bulldozed through rolling hills of oak savanna; though TEP proposes to close many of these road miles, such closures are often unsuccessful.
- 191 towers on the Coronado National Forest (each 140 ft. high) would reduce more than 18,000 acres of wild lands from a Forest Service scenic rating of "High or Very High" to "Moderate or Low."
- The route would cross habitat for 10 federally listed Endangered or Threatened species and 74 special status species including jaguar, Mexican spotted owls, Southwestern willow flycatchers, lesser long-nosed bats, and Chiricahua Leopard frog.
- 200 acres on the Coronado National Forest would be disturbed permanently.
- The route comes within a half mile of the existing Pajarito Wilderness Area and Gooding Research Natural Area, and a stretch of Sycamore Canyon eligible for Wild and Scenic River status.

Comment No. 1

Chapter 3 describes the potentially affected environment (including the Western Corridor in the areas cited by the commentor) and Chapter 4 analyzes potential impacts to these areas.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Comment No. 2

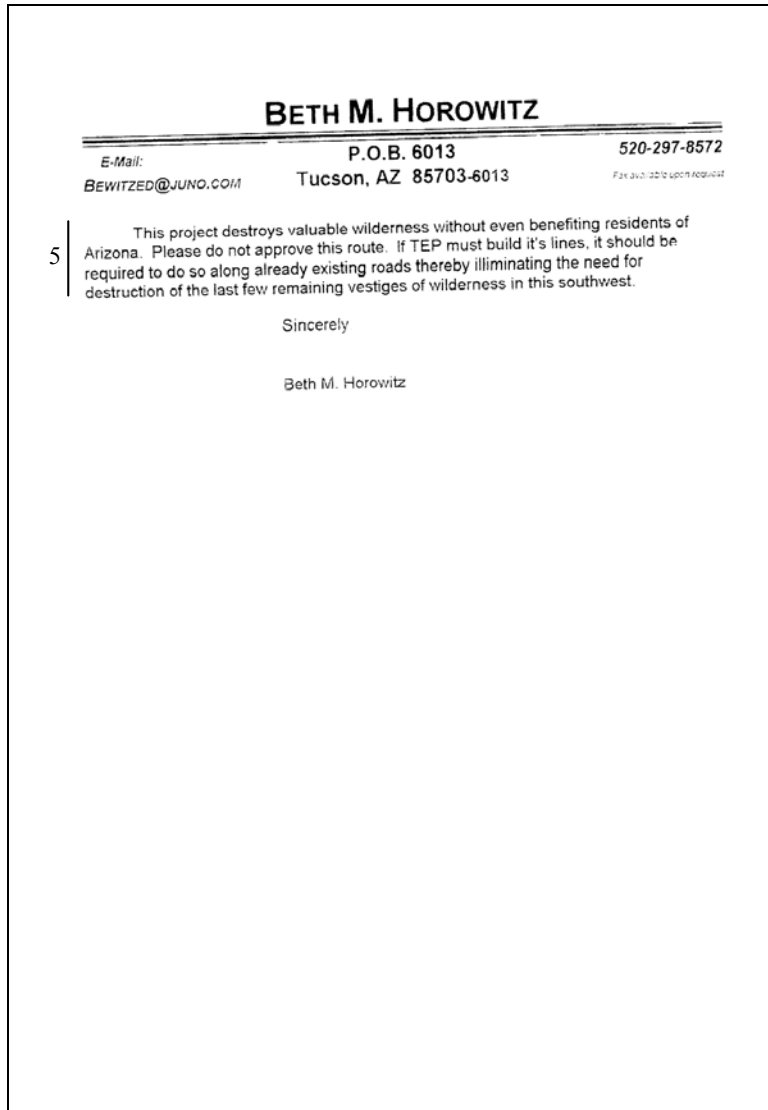
Section 1.1.1, The Proposed Action, has been revised in the Final EIS to clarify that the 345-kV transmission line that TEP proposes to construct would go just across the U.S.-Mexico border, where it would likely connect to another transmission line. Section 5.2.4, Power Plants in Mexico, in the Cumulative Impacts analysis of the Final EIS has been revised to indicate that the nearest known location to the U.S.-Mexico border crossing that is planned for power plant construction is in Naco, Sonora, approximately 75 mi (121 km) east of Nogales. The Federal agencies do not have any information suggesting that any power plant construction in Mexico is reliant upon or otherwise connected to TEP's proposed project.

If TEP's proposed project is approved by each of the Federal agencies, then there would still be a variety of events that could preclude TEP from implementing this project, such as the possibility of failure by TEP to secure a power sales contract with CFE. Issuance of a Presidential Permit by DOE would only indicate that DOE has no objection to the project, but would not mandate that the project be built.

Comment No. 3

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Horowitz, Beth
Page 2 of 2



Comment No. 4

Regarding the effectiveness of road closures, any authorization issued to implement the proposed project on the Coronado National Forest would contain terms and conditions to ensure road barrier effectiveness and maintenance, as appropriate.

Comment No. 5

The commentor states that the proposed project would destroy valuable wilderness without benefiting the residents of Arizona and urges that the Western Corridor not be approved. The commentor states that if the proposed project were to be built, it should be sited along existing roads.

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Section 4.12, Transportation, states that access to the proposed project would be on existing utility maintenance roads, ranch access roads and trails, where feasible, and that new access would be constructed where no access currently exists. TEP would close 1.0 mi (1.6 km) of existing road for every 1.0 mi (1.6 km) of proposed road to be used in the operation or long-term maintenance of the proposed project on the Coronado National Forest, such that road density on the Coronado National Forest would not be affected.

Huebbe I, William and William Huebbe II
Page 1 of 1

power line

From: Billy Huebbe [SMTP:billy@osekmedia.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: power line
Sent: 10/8/2003 11:08 PM
Importance: Normal

1 I am opposed to the western route for the proposed power line because of the great, irreverable damage to the wilderness. Sycamore Creek is home to unique animal and plant species. The scenic value of this spectacular area will be seriously degraded. There are existing power lines running up the Santa Cruz Valley. I would rather see the power lines concentrated up this corridor. It seems that it would be more efficient and less expensive to build along already developed corridors than to bulldoze undeveloped, pristine wilderness.

William Huebbe II
William Huebbe I
Arivaca, AZ

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe the affected environment and analyze potential impacts to visual resources from the proposed project, respectively. Sections 3.3 and 4.3 describe the affected environment and analyze the potential impacts to biological resources.

Due to visual impacts through densely populated areas, and the potential impacts to cultural resources, the I-19 corridor was eliminated from further analysis as viable action alternative (see Section 2.1.5 of the Final EIS).

Husband, Susan
Page 1 of 2

October 10, 2003

Susan Husband
2618 E. Malvern St.
Tucson, AZ 85716

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Pell:

1 I am writing regarding the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS. Tucson Electric Power (TEP) wants to construct a huge electrical transmission line across a remote, beautiful and unique section of Southern Arizona to sell electricity to another country.

The Arizona Corporation Commission has ordered TEP to improve electrical service to Santa Cruz County, yet in a recent interview on Arizona Illustrated, (KUAT Public Television) a TEP spokesman said the reason for the power line was two fold: to protect Tucson from power outages by making us less dependent on the national power grid and to sell power to Mexico.

2 What about Santa Cruz County? A line of 1/3 the voltage they are proposing could provide Santa Cruz County with ample electricity. Existing poles and towers could be used and the smaller line could be buried in populated areas. In addition there is a grassroots group in Mexico, Grupo Maestros, that wants to build an electrical generating facility in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and provide electricity to Santa Cruz County. This seems to me like a step in the right direction. Not only would the need to transmit electricity from Tucson be eliminated, but this would provide infrastructure and jobs to Mexico, strengthening their economy, which is one of the long term solutions to our current border problems.

3 The TEP representative also stressed the minimal footprint of the transmission towers. When we are looking at 400 towers that rise 140 feet into the air, their "footprint" is not the issue. In addition, these footprints will be linked by an access road, giving access to smugglers and off road drivers.

4 The Sky Island Alliance has been preparing a proposal that would create the Tucmacacori Highland Wilderness, which would be adjacent to the Pajarita Wilderness area. Enlarging this protected area would add over 8,000 acres of habitat protection for 10 species that are threatened or endangered, and more than 70 species with special status, including jaguars. The proposed line travels right through this area, in addition to

Comment No. 1

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...."

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present analyses of existing recreational settings and activities, and potential impacts to recreation from the proposed project. Section 4.1.2 specifically evaluates impacts to ROS indicators such as remoteness and naturalness, both of which would have changes that are "inconsistent" with the existing ROS classes for much of the length of the Western and Crossover Corridors within the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 2

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

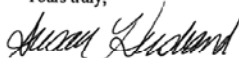
Husband, Susan
Page 2 of 2

Susan Husband
Page 2

4 | impacting the Gooding Natural Area and Sycamore Canyon, which qualifies as a wild
CONT. | and scenic watercourse. The wild and scenic areas of Arizona are fast disappearing.
Can't we save this one?

5 | As a customer of TEP I currently have no choice but to finance their company, but it
makes me so angry to see them using local issues to finance grandiose schemes. An
option not given by TEP is to not build the line at all. This is the option I favor.

Yours truly,



Susan Husband

Comment No. 2 (continued)

On May 10, 2001, DOE received an application for a Presidential Permit from the Maestros Group to construct a transmission line across the U.S.-Mexico border from a proposed power plant to be built in the Nogales, Arizona area. To date, Maestros Group has provided no additional information for DOE to continue processing their Presidential Permit application. However, as more fully discussed in Section 2.1.5, a new power plant in the Nogales area does not obviate TEP's purpose and need for this project, and therefore, is not a viable alternative.

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal and, therefore, is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 3

Refer to the response to Comment 1 above regarding visual impacts.

Section 4.1.1, Land Use, of the Final EIS has been revised to clarify that although the Federal agencies use the term "footprint" to describe the area beneath each tower, there would be additional temporary and permanent land disturbance associated with the proposed project, including both temporary roads for construction and permanent roads for maintenance.

Section 3.1.2 of the EIS states that there is off-highway vehicle use in the project area, and Section 4.1.2 analyzes the impacts of off-highway vehicle use as one of many recreational uses of the project area, including the Coronado National Forest.

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally re-enforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS

Comment No. 3 (continued)

was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above.

Comment No. 4

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 3.1, Land Use, discusses the affected environment of the Pajarita Wilderness, which encompasses the Goodding Research Natural Area and the segment of Sycamore Canyon that is potentially eligible for designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The structure locations, construction areas, and proposed access roads for all three corridors would not enter into the Pajarita Wilderness. Potential impacts to these resources are addressed in the resource sections of Chapter 4, Environmental Effects.

Comment No. 5

After a regulated utility such as TEP constructs a project in Arizona, the ACC determines whether, or to what degree, an investment by a utility is recoverable through consumer electricity rates. Because the Federal agencies cannot anticipate how the ACC may adjust consumer electricity rates in light of the proposed project, the potential change in consumer electricity rates is too speculative for inclusion in the EIS (see the response to the Border Power Plant Working Group, Comment 2).

The EIS comprehensively reviews a No Action Alternative, that is, one that assumes that the lines are not built at all (see Section 2.1.4).

Husband, Susan
Page 1 of 2

October 10, 2003

Susan Husband
2618 E. Malvern St.
Tucson, AZ 85716

Sue Kozacek
Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek:

1 I am writing regarding the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS. Tucson Electric Power (TEP) wants to construct a huge electrical transmission line across a remote, beautiful and unique section of Southern Arizona to sell electricity to another country.

The Arizona Corporation Commission has ordered TEP to improve electrical service to Santa Cruz County, yet in a recent interview on Arizona Illustrated, (KUAT Public Television) a TEP spokesman said the reason for the power line was two fold: to protect Tucson from power outages by making us less dependent on the national power grid and to sell power to Mexico.

2 What about Santa Cruz County? A line of 1/3 the voltage they are proposing could provide Santa Cruz County with ample electricity. Existing poles and towers could be used and the smaller line could be buried in populated areas. In addition there is a grassroots group in Mexico, Grupo Maestros, that wants to build an electrical generating facility in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and provide electricity to Santa Cruz County. This seems to me like a step in the right direction. Not only would the need to transmit electricity from Tucson be eliminated, but this would provide infrastructure and jobs to Mexico, strengthening their economy, which is one of the long term solutions to our current border problems.

3 The TEP representative also stressed the minimal footprint of the transmission towers. When we are looking at 400 towers that rise 140 feet into the air, their "footprint" is not the issue. In addition, these footprints will be linked by an access road, giving access to smugglers and off road drivers. In fact TEP proposes to build over 20 miles of new roads along this route.

4 Unfortunately, by proposing multiple routes, TEP has already effectively pursued a divide and conquer strategy, which has pitted the homeowners and citizens of Green Valley against those concerned for Arizona's open spaces, ecology and outdoor recreation.

Comment Nos. 1, 2, and 3

Refer to the response to Comments 1, 2, and 3, respectively, in the previous submittal from Susan Husband.

Comment No. 4

NEPA regulations require that Federal agencies rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives (40 CFR 1502.12[a]). As explained in Section 1.2 TEP conducted a corridor identification process prior to the NEPA process, and the Crossover Corridor was added for analysis in the EIS based on public and tribal input received during the public scoping period and tribal consultations (see Section 1.6.1, Public Scoping).

Comment No. 5

Refer to the response to Comment No. 4 in the previous submittal from Susan Husband.

Comment No. 6

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Any future special use, such as those mentioned by commentor (pipelines, roads, microwave towers, cell phone towers, etc.) would need to go through a permit application process, review by the Forest Service, and environmental assessment. Each proposal is evaluated individually, and it is not possible to predict if any future proposals would be approved. The development of this powerline would not preclude Congressional wilderness designation for areas of the forest.

Comment No. 7

Refer to the response to Comment 5 in the previous submittal from Susan Husband.

Husband, Susan

Page 2 of 2

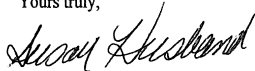
Susan Husband
Page 2

5 | The Sky Island Alliance has been preparing a proposal that would create the Tucmacacori Highland Wilderness, which would be adjacent to the Pajarita Wilderness area. Enlarging this protected area would add over 8,000 acres of habitat protection for 10 species that are threatened or endangered, and more than 70 species with special status, including jaguars. The proposed line travels right through this area, in addition to impacting the Gooding Natural Area and Sycamore Canyon, which qualifies as a wild and scenic watercourse.

6 | The forest service has established a scenic rating system. When the towers are erected on forest service land the scenic rating of this area will fall from "high or very high" to "moderate or low". Once this pristine area is compromised it will be easier to further degrade the area with pipelines, roads, microwave towers, cell phone towers, etc. The wild and scenic areas of Arizona are fast disappearing. Can't we save this one?

7 | As a customer of TEP I currently have no choice but to finance their company, but it makes me so angry to see them using local issues to finance grandiose schemes. An option not given by TEP is to not build the line at all. This is the option I favor.

Yours truly,



Susan Husband

Jewett, Robert and Deana
Page 1 of 3

----- Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 05:14 PM -----
abblou@earthlink.net
10/10/2003 12:33 AM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover
Route" would carve through some of the most remote and
wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the
beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori
Highlands. This area contains several roadless areas as well
as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home to black bears,
Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine
falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora
chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry
indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two
years ago.

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Jewett, Robert and Deana
Page 2 of 3

3 | The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

4 | The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

5 | The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

6 | Also please support renewable energy resources such as wind power. Jimmy Carter, one of our more intelligent presidents, had some good ideas on this. Those supporting a more commercially based value system over people's interests and practicality made sure these ideas were not implemented.

7 | The government is subsidizing and forming partnerships with industries that are destroying, not maintaining and

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Jewett, Robert and Deana

Page 3 of 3

7
cont. | protecting people's interests. There are other choices, but
those industries that also support political campaigns would
lose control, market share and power.

1
cont. | As voters, we haven't been asked. We are excluded, it is
done behind closed doors in secrecy.

1
cont. | Please withdraw this Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Robert and Deana Jewett
12832 Iona Rd
Ft Myers, Florida 33908

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Comment No. 6

Alternative or renewable power supply methods do not meet TEP's proposal and are thus not evaluated in this EIS (see Section 2.1.5).

Comment No. 7

Section 1.2.2 of the Final EIS provides discussion of the Federal agencies' purpose and need for action. Section 1.6 of the Final EIS presents a discussion on the public participation process for the proposed project.